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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/635,590	08/05/2003	Kenichi Hanamata	3864/0N107US0	1377
7278	7590	04/19/2007		
DARBY & DARBY P.C. P. O. BOX 5257 NEW YORK, NY 10150-5257			EXAMINER MANCHO, RONNIE M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3663	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/19/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/635,590

Applicant(s)

HANAMATA, KENICHI

Examiner

Ronnie Mancho

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 4-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 4-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 2, 4-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. That is, the applicant recites the phrase, “configured to self-diagnose verification of reception of signals”. Applicant drawings and specification fail to teach how to verify or diagnose the reception of signals. Applicant merely transfers the phrase verbatim from the specification to the claims. Thus one of ordinary skill in the art will not readily apprise or make the invention as directed by the applicant.

Claim 10 is confusing. That is independent claim 7 calls for a control system verifying reception of signals from a plurality of switches. On the other hand, independent claim 10 calls for “a door switch, which needs no verification of a reception of a signal thereof”. Claim 10 contradicts claim 7.

The preamble of claim 11 recites, “a control system of a vehicle configured to self-diagnose verification of reception of a signals from a plurality of switches”. Then line 3 reads “a self diagnosis function”. And the last two lines of claim 11 recite, “activate said self-diagnosis function based on said predetermined control signal to establish a *self-diagnosis mode*”. It is

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therefore clear that the limitation, “configured to self-diagnose verification of reception of signals from a plurality of switches” has not being recited in the body of the claim. Meanwhile, assuming that the limitation was recited in the body of the claim, the disclosure does not explain how to verify or diagnose the reception of signals. Applicant merely transfers the phrase verbatim from the specification to the claims

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 11, 2, 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Abe (5050080).

Regarding claim 11, Abe (figs. 1-4; col. 2, lines 55 to col. 5, line 40) discloses a control system of vehicle for self-diagnosing (col. 3, lines 35-46) a verification of a reception of signals from a plurality of switches (12, 14, 16, etc; fig. 2a), comprising:

a central processing unit 2 (fig. 1) provided with a self-diagnosis function (col. 3, lines 35-46);

a function checker 25 (figs. 1, 2b);

a connector (24, 26; figs. 2a, 2b) configured to connect to said function checker 25;

a first communication line (fig. 2a) connecting said central processing unit 2 with a first switch 16 (fig. 2a; col. 3, lines 15-35);

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a second communication line (fig. 2) connecting said central processing unit 2 with a second switch 14 (fig. 2a; col. 3, lines 15-35);

a third communication line (fig. 2a) connecting said connector with said first communication line (i.e. connection is through interface 6; fig. 2a);

a fourth communication line (fig. 2a) connecting said connector with said second communication line (i.e. connection is through interface 6, fig. 2a); and

a fifth communication line (fig. 2a) connecting said connector with said central processing unit 2,

said function checker being configured such that, when a predetermined signal from said first switch 16 is transmitted to said function checker 25 through said first and third communication lines, said function checker 25 transmits a predetermined control signal to said central processing units 2 through said fourth and second communication lines; and said central processing unit being configured to activate said self-diagnosis function based on said predetermined control signal to establish a self-diagnosis mode (cols. 3&4).

Regarding claim 2, Abe (figs. 1-4; col. 2, lines 55 to col. 5, line 40) discloses the control unit according to claim 11, wherein said central processing unit 2 outputs a diagnosed result of the self-diagnosis mode as the vehicle information data to the function checker (cols. 3&4) through said fifth communication line (cols 3&4).

Regarding claim 4, Abe (figs. 1-4; col. 2, lines 55 to col. 5, line 40) discloses the control unit according to claim 2, wherein the function checker displays a diagnosed result of the self-diagnosis mode based on the received vehicle information data. (cols. 3&4).

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Regarding claim 5, Abe (figs. 1-4; col. 2, lines 55 to col. 5, line 40) discloses the control unit according to claim 11 wherein said central processing unit outputs a diagnosed result of the self-diagnosis mode as an actuating control signal for controlling at least either one of a room lamp or an indicator lamp (cols. 3&4).

Regarding claim 6, Abe (figs. 1-4; col. 2, lines 55 to col. 5, line 40) discloses the control unit according to claim 2, wherein said central processing unit outputs a diagnosed result of the self-diagnosis mode as an actuating control signal for controlling at least either one of a room lamp or an indicator lamp 23a (cols. 3&4).

Regarding claim 7, Abe (figs. 1-4; col. 2, lines 55 to col. 5, line 40) discloses a control system of vehicle configured to self-diagnose a verification of a reception of signals from a plurality of switches (col. 3, lines 15-35), comprising:

- a plurality of switches (12, 14, 16; col. 3, lines 15-35);
- a control unit 2 provided with a self-diagnosis function (fig. 2a; col. 3, lines 15-35) configured to verify the reception of the signals from said switches;
- a function checker 25 connected with said control unit 2 (figs. 2a and 2b);
- a first communication line (fig. 2a) connecting said control unit 2 with a first switch 16 (col. 3, lines 15-35) to transmit a first signal issued from the first switch to said control unit 2;
- a second communication line (fig. 2a) connecting said control unit 2 with a second switch 14 to transmit a second signal issued from the second switch to said control unit 2 (col. 3, lines 15-35);
- a third communication line (fig. 2a) for said function checker 25 intercepting the first signal from said first communication line; and

a fourth communication line (fig. 2a) configured to transmit a pseudo signal of the second signal from said function checker to said control unit through said second communication line when said function checker receives the first signal (col. 3&4);

wherein the control unit 2 is configured to activate the self-diagnosis function to establish a self-diagnosis mode when receiving the pseudo signal of the second signal, so that the reception of signals from the plurality of switches can be verified.(cols. 3&4).

Regarding claim 8, Abe (figs. 1-4; col. 2, lines 55 to col. 5, line 40) discloses the control system according to claim 7, wherein said control unit outputs a diagnosed result of the self-diagnosis mode as an actuating control signal for controlling at least either one of a room lamp or an indicator lamp 23a (cols. 3&4).

Regarding claim 9, Abe (figs. 1-4; col. 2, lines 55 to col. 5, line 40) discloses the control system according to claim 7, wherein said first switch is the ignition switch (col. 4, lines 11-15),.

Regarding claim 10, Abe (figs. 1-4; col. 2, lines 55 to col. 5, line 40) discloses the control system according to claim 7, wherein said second switch is a door switch, which needs no verification of a reception of a signal thereof.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1/15/07 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Communication

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronnie Mancho whose telephone number is 571-272-6984. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs: 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Keith can be reached on 571-272-6878. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ronnie Mancho
Examiner
Art Unit 3663

4/13/07


JACK KEITH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER